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## COVID-19 Journal | Corrin Cadle

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# COVID-19 JOURNAL

**Corrin Cadle**

**Monday, March 30, 2020**

**As the first entry to my online COVID-19 journal, I wanted to begin by stating what has happened thus far during this journey of so much unknown. When this first started getting crazy it was the least significant thing at the time. All we knew is old people were dying from a virus that came from China. I think because it hit us so fast and so quickly, people have not quite left the mindset of this virus being as significant as it is. I feel as if I'm living in a movie. Just last week I went to Destin, Florida for a week as part of my "quarantine" with a big group of friends. When we went, this virus was not bad, and now it seems as if the world is ending. The effects of this virus change and become more severe everyday.**

**This is impacting people in so many different ways. For me, I am stuck in my tiny freshman dorm where I don't even have my own bathroom. I think I've spent more time in this room within the past month than I did total last semester. I feel more and more claustrophobic here, but on Friday I will be moving home. Which is terrifying, because the whole reason I've stayed in Jacksonville as long as I have is because my mom has an autoimmune disease. If I were to transmit corona to her, she'd die, and I feel like it'd be my fault. I'm scared, but I want to be with my family during times like this.**

**Wednesday, April 1, 2020**

**Today was a little better than the rest of the week has gone. I have not completely isolated myself, yet, from people. I am still seeing my close friend group everyday just trying to soak in every minute I have with them until I go back home to Georgia where I won't only be on house arrest, but room arrest. My dad called me today and told me**

that my mother's depression has gotten worse due to the fact she is cooped inside a house with no interaction with people. She is strong around others during times like this, because of my father and her position in the church. At home, though, she can be weak and show that she is hurting. My dad called me to warn me in advance, which makes going home harder.

Today, though, my friend group and I ordered a basketball goal to put outside my friends house to play. We set it up and were outside all day playing basketball, talking walks, catching caterpillars, and having fun. I feel like a kid again with nowhere to go, but outside with my friends. I also cleaned my dorm, so that when my mom comes to help me move on Friday she is not exposed to anything new. This is scary, but I am thankful no one in my life has been directly impacted by this yet.

Friday, April 3, 2020

I am officially home. Today has been good to be reunited with my parents and dog, but I am going to miss Jacksonville. The hardest part is not knowing when I can go back and see my friends again. I am also struggling with school. I feel so out of the loop and there are rumors of professors doing something with the grading curriculum, but I feel like there is nothing that can help me catch up at this point. I am normally an A, B student, but with not being in class I am finding it harder and harder to focus and genuinely learn.

I know this is a process and is only temporary, but it is starting to get more and more scary with how life is changing. I hate change like this, and I feel like it is really kicking my butt. I am hoping to adjust and get into a good mindset, but it is hard.

Sunday, April 5, 2020

Life is getting easier and I have had a lot of free time on my hands this weekend to really do the things that I need to help me maintain my sanity. The weather has been extremely nice, so I have

been able to get out and run, or lay out and tan during the day, and in the evenings play games and watch movies with my parents. We have had a lot of close quality time together, but it is also hard knowing some of my best friends from highschool are just right up the street but I can't see them.

I also found out next week I will be temporarily moving to Indiana to help my sister, who is a single mom, with her kids because she needs to go into work. That is very exciting, but VERY nerve racking with the fact I am already falling behind in school. I will be with the kids all day and who knows when I will have time to genuinely sit down and focus on my schoolwork.

**Tuesday, April 7, 2020**

All this free time is very enjoyable. I have started a project to redo my room. I have had the same style room since middle school, and I would love to simplify it a little more. I have, also, watched the movie 'Hercules' twice now. It is one of my favorite movies of all time, and at school I didn't ever have free time to watch movies. Keeping up with school has been easy, but dreadful. I am very lucky, though. Seniors in high school are having the best part of their senior year snatched from them. No prom, no walk at graduation, no senior year spring break trips, no traveling after graduation, and no expectations of the best year of high school being fulfilled. It's honestly heartbreaking.

The hardest part of it all is not being with my friends. I've said that numerous times, but I had the best two weeks of college before I came home. Then, all the sudden, I was home, and I was bored. My life went from a 100% full schedule to absolutely nothing. I am seeing beauty within the madness, and trusting God's plan, but I am ready for life to be normal again.

**Thursday, April 9, 2020**

Quarantine is getting interesting! I reconnected with my neighbor, and we walked around my neighborhood together and caught up on life since high school (keeping 6 feet apart of course). It was good to have some social interaction with someone other than my parents and dog. I've started watching a new Netflix show that I will probably finish within the next week, if I'm being completely honest. But, that is about the extent of my days at this point.

School is becoming easier, but is feeling more like a task that I have to check off everyday, which is a way I've never felt about school. I love the little bit of freedom I have with getting to learn when I want throughout my day. For example, I don't have to wake up early to do any of my schoolwork. I can sleep in and do what I want with my time of daylight, and spend my evenings doing school. It is a good plan, but I still wish I was in actual class. All of my professors have been really great with figuring out the best way to handle the transition to online classes.

Saturday, April 11, 2020

Tomorrow is Easter. This will be the first Sunday since I was born that I will not be in church to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. My heart is solemn, but my church is amazing. They decided to do a drive-in service. Everybody comes and stays in their cars, but is together for Easter to worship and hear a message. It was amazing to be a part of that community again, despite being separated and communicating from our cars. I consider myself so blessed to be a part of a community and live in a country that despite a national pandemic, we are still able to practice our religious beliefs.

It was also nice to get dressed and put on some makeup, and actually have something to do. They always say you never appreciate something until it's gone. Who would have ever thought we'd have our whole lives taken from us. Our routines, our social gatherings, our basic everyday life. To even leave our houses we have to wear masks and basically shower in hand sanitizer. It's extremely scary to not know

when this will be over or how life will even be when this all ends. All in all, today I listened to a super basic song by Andy Grammar called "Keep Your Head Up". It is a song everyone knows, but I think it is a song that our nation needs to blast through our speakers. We need to make the best of this situation. Especially those of us who have not been directly impacted by this virus. I am the only person in my family who is currently unemployed. This is miraculous, because at 19 I don't NEED a job, but it's nice to have my own money to be able to shop whenever I desire.

Monday, April 13, 2020

As of this week I am officially getting \$52 a week for unemployment. I haven't needed money for anything right now, though which is such a blessing because I pay for everything on my own (gas, food without my parents, clothes, makeup, etc.). That \$52 will just be saved for when things start opening back up. It is such a blessing to basically be getting free money.

Tomorrow I pack up to head to Indiana to help out my sister who is a single mom. I feel absolutely horrible for her, because she is an employer and has to work from home, teach her kids school, make meals, and clean. She is completely overwhelmed. I will be going to do whatever I can to take a load off of her shoulders. It is exciting, though, because I will be living in a house with her, my brother, my niece, and my nephew. This is the first time since I was 8 that we will all be under the same roof. It is stressful, though, because I am drawing near to the end of my semester, which means I will be taking finals while babysitting.

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Today was the first day in a while it felt like a normal day. I am basically playing mommy to my niece and nephew. So we woke up and watched tv together, and then ate some lunch. It's weird not being on my own schedule, but it's just another change in routine I will adjust to

since the outbreak. After lunch I took the kids to a creek I used to play in as a kid myself and then through a drive-thru to get some ice cream. It's been a good day, but, of course, I didn't get any school work done. I kept telling myself I'd do it before bed, but by the time I got in bed I was absolutely exhausted.

I never realized how easy this pandemic was for kids. Actually, easy isn't the right word. They just aren't used to running around in public or constantly having things to do like you do when you get a little older. They're just happy that their school work load has basically disappeared. They do schoolwork for maybe an hour a day, then have the rest of the day to play outside or with their toys. What I'd give to be a kid going through this time. It's absolutely crazy to think I am a part of history right now.

**Friday, April 17, 2020**

School is becoming more and more challenging. I had one of the biggest assignments of my semester due in my American Lit class today, and it would not submit. I did not sign up for online school for this exact reason. So instead of being able to submit my assignment online, I get to FaceTime with my professor tomorrow morning.

On top of all of that, though, I got to spend a lot of quality time with my siblings tonight. We laughed, played games, and just talked about life. It was so good to be with them again. We watched something on t.v. with a bunch of celebrities talking about staying home and whatnot. It's cool how much the community is coming together to encourage each other.

**Sunday, April 19, 2020**

Today was the definition of a lazy Sunday. Without there being church to wake up for on Sunday mornings, I find myself not getting out of bed all day basically. It's relaxing, but I am not one to enjoy lazy days, if I'm being honest. I am a very hyperactive person so laying in bed all day is not the move for me. I always try to find things to do to

keep me busy. I attempted that today, with finding new music, shopping for all the birthdays I have coming up in my family, and taking cool pictures.

My 12 year old niece has a polaroid camera. Her and I had a blast with the different lenses, angles, and stickers we could put on the pictures. Quarantine has made me appreciate the little things in life recently, and I am truly grateful for that. That is a trait I hope I don't lose anytime soon.

**Tuesday, April 21, 2020**

It was absolutely beautiful outside today. This pandemic was at a good time of year because the weather is just perfect! It's not overly hot to where we can't be outside, but it's not too cool where we don't want to be outside for long. I love spending time with my family and making memories I haven't gotten to make in a long time. It's stressful watching kids all day, and has made me question ever having kids one day, but it is still a blessing and something to do during this time of nothingness.

Georgia announced that this Friday businesses like barbershops, nail salons, and more will be opening up under the strict guidelines of health safety. Monday restaurants will start opening up under the strict guidelines, too. This is a good sign that things are starting to die down, but I hope that these businesses opening backup does not mean there will be another spike of things. I hope people follow all the precautions. But, I think the sun is starting to peek through the clouds concerning this virus if places are opening back up.

**Thursday, April 23, 2020**

I have been getting out and running since the weather has been so nice. It is enjoyable to be finding news things I like to do since everything else is closed. I had to go to the grocery store today. It is funny how in Georgia, in public everyone has a mask on. When I went to the grocery store in Indiana people still had masks on, but it didn't



seem as much of a stressful situation as it did in Georgia. In Georgia, I felt like I got the ugliest looks given to me because I didn't have a mask on.

I am drawing to the end of the school year, and I honestly could not be more ready to be done. Online school is not for me and I cannot express that enough. It would be impossible, though, to put my education on pause, because I cannot physically be in class to learn. I have a plan to graduate in a certain amount of time, and I cannot stop that plan.

**Saturday, April 25, 2020**

Seems like with everyone being home people are going stir crazy and doing crazy things to their hair. Guys are shaving their heads and girls are dying their hair. I jumped on that bandwagon, too. My niece and I both dyed a part of our hair hot pink. I really love it! Makes me want to keep it this way until after quarantine to show everyone!

I have had a lot of time on my hands to plan out stuff like how to redo my room in Georgia, how I am going to decorate my room at school, new artwork ideas, and elaborate gifts I want to get people. It is nice to have all this time on my hands, but I am ready to get back to the real world. I connected with a boy who goes to the University of West Georgia that I am interested in, but because of quarantine, I will have to wait what seems like an eternity to actually hang out with him. I know that is such an irrelevant issue to have, but it wouldn't be an issue at all if COVID-19 didn't exist.

**Monday, April 27, 2020**

Tomorrow is my last day of school. I am very excited to finally be done, but I am also anxious about my grades. The transition to online classes kicked my butt and put me in a bad place with my grades. I have a mask to wear when I go in public now. There is rumor that once everything does open again, people will only be allowed in public if they have a mask on. It is going to be interesting to see how the rest of the

world will play out after guidelines are lifted. I feel as if the economy has taken a major hit in places being closed.

Unemployment has been nice to receive. I am also getting \$500 every week too as a federal amount of money for unemployment. I think the goal in this is to have people at a decent standpoint for when businesses open back up. This is very intelligent on the government's behalf. I believe that will help businesses recover from the stage of no income while customers were getting no income from their jobs too.

In this journal I write from the time period between March 30-April 27. In a little less than a month I express how drastically my life was impacted due to COVID-19. Whereas this was drastic for my life and my everyday routine, it was not as drastically impacted as some other people experienced. For that I am grateful. In this journal I talk a lot about my daily routine and how it differed from my old routine before quarantine. Being a young adult and going through this time did not affect me as poorly as it did the older generations. Being the only person in my family who is unemployed was such a blessing during this time and the government provided unemployment to me, so I still have some income. This journal is a good viewpoint of an average college student's life during this pandemic.